

**WILKINSBURG BOROUGH**  
**Planning Session**  
**February 6, 2013**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-President McCarthy-Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal building, 605 Ross Ave., Wilkesburg, PA.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Present were Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Mr. Lefebvre and Ms. Macklin (via telephone). President Cohn, Ms. Moore, Ms. Goodman and Mayor John Thompson were absent. Also absent was Ms. Marcinko, Borough Manager. A quorum was established.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Following the pledge of allegiance, a moment of silence was observed to remember victims of violent crime.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Wilbert Wright – 1315 Clark St.** – Complained about a pit bull dog running loose. The owner's address is 1442 Clark St.

**CAPITAL PLANNING**

**1. Update on status of capital projects.**

Ms. Evans opened by informing Council that the status report will be provided by the Borough Engineer, Dave Gilliland. Mr. Gilliland stated that the Center and Wood Streets Sewer Liner Project which extends to Barnes Street is in progress with the manhole installations being complete. The liner will be installed in warmer weather. Mr. Gilliland stated that the contractor has started the Borough-owned property demolition. 7 structures will be removed under this project. The project is to be complete within sixty days, but it may be sooner. Ms. Macklin questioned whether the structures are on the inventory list in the packet. The properties do appear on the Abandoned Structures Inventory. Ms. Macklin questioned the property listing in the agenda packet. Mr. Gilliland clarified that those properties are proposed for demolition under CDBG 39 and 40, which are separate projects. Ms. Macklin questioned whether the properties would be put back on the market or considered for auction. Mr. Gilliland stated that he did not know if there is a plan for disposition of the property.

Ms. Ervin inquired as to the address for the structure on Hunter Street. Mr. Gilliland advised that it was 1310. All of the Borough-owned properties with structures were recommended for demolition.

Mr. Gilliland provided an update on the Ferguson Park/Playground Recreation Project. He advised that DCNR did not approve funding for the project last year. The application period for the DCNR grant is currently open through March, 2013. The grant requires a 50% local share and Mr. Gilliland requested Council's direction on resubmitting the application for funding. One of the reasons that the funding was not awarded related to the use of used playground equipment which had been acquired from Penn Hills. The revised plan will include new equipment which will increase project costs by \$18,000 for a total of \$150,500. The local share would be \$75,250. The Borough could submit an application for CD 40 funding which would reduce the local share to \$22,575. Ms. Macklin commented that this had previously been discussed and Council had decided to move forward. Ms. McCarthy-Johnson stated that the equipment had not been purchased from Penn Hills but it had been donated. It was the consensus of Council to proceed. Ms. Macklin asked if this project could be completed in conjunction with the KaBOOM program. Mr. Gilliland explained that the KaBOOM project can't be combined as KaBOOM has different requirements for equipment, design of the project and building the project. Ms. Macklin asked if the projects are in conflict or aligned. Mr. Gilliland responded that the projects are "instead of". Ms. McCarthy-Johnson suggested proceeding with both applications and moving forward with KaBOOM if that project is approved.

The Municipal Building Column Painting Project and lintels has been completed. The automatic doors will be complete within two weeks. There is an issue with the two sets of doors that are not locked simultaneously. There is also an issue with access to the emergency phone. It was suggested to move the Police Department emergency phone outside. The phone is presently not ADA accessible.

Ms. Moore arrived at approximately 7:00 PM.

Mr. Gilliland commented on the problems related to locking with the two sets of doors. Ms. Trice suggested moving the library drop box outside. Mr. Lefebvre suggested programming the switches for the doors to open simultaneously. The doors swing outward. Chief Coleman commented on problems with the doors swinging outward and recommended sliding doors. Mr. Gilliland will work on redesign and the project will be placed on hold. Ms. McCarthy-Johnson commented on Council's concerns regarding ADA compliance.

Bids for the administrative offices air conditioning project will be opened on February 22, 2013. The bid opening for the library air conditioning project is scheduled for a later date. This project includes the second floor library, third floor library, library offices and the auditorium. A consultant will assess the air conditioning needs in the library. The administrative offices on the first floor will have a ductless air conditioning system. In response to Ms. Macklin's inquiry, Mr. Gilliland advised that the former fire chief's office is included in the project.

The Police Department renovations project has been advertised for bid. The bid opening is scheduled for February 22, 2013. In response to an inquiry, Mr. Gilliland advised that the

advertisement for bids appears in the Pittsburgh Post Gazette and possibly in the New Pittsburgh Courier and this is handled by Glenn Engineering's office manager.

The Wood Street Lighting Project Phases I and II are complete. Council is to consider Phase III which constitutes troubleshooting of the lights on Penn Avenue from Hay Street to Swissvale Avenue and on Wood Street from Penn Avenue to Wallace Avenue.

The Eastridge Library Drainage Project is complete. The roof drains and window well drains had to be disconnected from the sanitary sewer. The asphalt restoration will be completed in the spring. Quotes are being received for tree removals and trimming and pruning to prevent clogging of the gutter system. The bid opening is scheduled for February 11, 2013.

The Borough will receive CD 39 funding for demolition in the amount of \$31,761.00. There are twelve sites on the list and it is recommended to bid all twelve sites even though it is not expected that there is sufficient funding to complete all sites. This year, the Borough is part of the TCVCOG area wide demolition contract. Any unexpended monies allocated to the member municipalities of the TCVCOG will be returned to the County. There may be monies left over which may provide additional funding. All sites are priority code 1.

## **2. Discussion – CDBG 40 Projects.**

Mr. Gilliland commented on the proposed sites for demolition funding. All sites are priority code 1, with the exception 38 La Belle Street which is a code 2. He requested this site be added as the back wall has collapsed. Ferguson Park/Playground is also proposed as a CD 40 project. Funding for street reconstruction is also proposed for CD eligible roadways. These include South Avenue from the City Line to Trenton Avenue, Montier Street between Hill Avenue and Glenn Avenue and Hill Avenue between Coal Street and Swissvale Avenue. Also included as a carry-over from last year is Rebecca Avenue from Wood Street to Mulberry Street.

Ms. Macklin commented on the condition of an alley way between Marlboro Avenue and Shelbourne Avenue. Mr. Gilliland advised that alleyways are not eligible for funding unless there is a mailing address on the alley. Ms. Macklin requested a sign be installed indicating "local traffic only". She further requested that the potholes be filled. Mr. Gilliland advised that the best that can be done at this point is to install cold patch as hot patch is not available until spring.

Ms. McCarthy-Johnson commented on a pothole on Hamnett Street. Ms. Evans suggested compiling a list of alleyways that need repair. Mr. Gilliland recommended cold patch for now, hot patch when the asphalt plants open and renting a roller for a more permanent repair.

Ms. Trice inquired about paving of the 1900-2000 block of Laketon Rd. Mr. Gilliland stated that Council agreed not to repave that section due to concerns over speeding and the proximity of Turner School.

The last two projects are the repair and renovation of the Ardmore Boulevard Wall and the rebuilding of thirteen handicap ramps on Wood Street to bring them into ADA compliance. Ms.

Macklin inquired about the response from PA DOT regarding ownership of the Ardmore Boulevard Wall. Mr. Gilliland advised that a response was never received. She suggested that another letter be issued.

Mr. Gilliland commented that CDBG funding has been reduced by about 15% every year. CDBG funding is available for water and sewer projects, parks and recreation projects, public improvements, projects benefitting the handicapped and senior citizens, and demolition.

Ms. Evans commented on other funding sources including CITF, GDRE which is highly competitive, and DCNR funding. Ms. Evans advised that a response has not yet been received to the traffic circulation study funding request.

Ms. Macklin inquired about the use of bond proceeds for the Eastridge Library Branch purchase and DPW equipment. Mr. Lefebvre stated that Council decided to lease the front loader and those payments are made out of the General Fund.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **1. Discussion – Process for the review of residential parking restrictions.**

Ms. McCarthy-Johnson commented on the requests which have been received relating to removing residential parking restrictions in some areas. Ms. Macklin asked if Council has spoken to residents in the affected areas. Chief Coleman commented that she was not aware of any complaints by residents in the areas around Hosanna House. Ms. McCarthy-Johnson commented that patrons of Jean's Southern Cuisine restaurant are receiving parking tickets on North Avenue as there is a residential parking restriction. Chief Coleman suggested use of the parking lot with metered parking spaces. Ms. Macklin commented on the requirement for a certain number of parking spaces for businesses. Ms. Evans suggested Council establish a better process to review the need for residential parking restrictions. She commented on the difficulty for visitors, such as caregivers or contractors, in finding parking in areas designated for residential parking. Chief Coleman suggested visitor parking passes for visitors that have to park in restricted parking areas. She further commented on the need to adhere to the rules and regulations that are set by the Borough without prejudice. Ms. Trice commented on commercial vehicle parking in a residential area. Ms. McCarthy-Johnson suggested a review of the ordinance related to residential parking restrictions. Ms. Macklin suggested the Code Enforcement Department review residential parking areas and make a recommendation to Council for those areas wherein the restriction should be eliminated. Chief Coleman asked that people are informed to properly display their visitor parking permits. Ms. Ervin mentioned establishing provisions for visitor parking for residents without a vehicle.

### **2. Discussion – Street Opening Ordinance and requirements for proper restoration.**

Ms. McCarthy-Johnson commented on the need for better enforcement of the roadway restoration requirements after a street opening. Ms. Macklin questioned whether the poor condition of the restorations is due to the fact that final restoration has not yet occurred. The

need for police presence for contractors performing work after normal business hours was discussed.

Ms. Macklin commented on the need to amend the ordinance to require restoration from curb to curb or at least curb to center of roadway. Ms. Evans concurred and suggested obtaining an opinion from the solicitor as to whether curb to curb restoration can be required. Chief Coleman commented on the responsibility of the project manager. Ms. Ervin believes Code Enforcement is responsible for compliance.

Ms. Macklin commented on the red brick in the business district and posing of a pedestrian tripping hazard due to the bricks coming loose near the new tree pits on Penn Ave. Ms. Macklin questioned why the metal grates were not installed. Ms. Evans stated that tree grates were considered but not chosen due to tripping hazards associated with that installation. Ms. Evans explained the first row of brick is coming loose. The Shade Tree Committee, Nine Mile Run and the Borough are aware of this issue and are exploring alternatives to remediate these issues.

Ms. Macklin questioned who is responsible for the project management of the projects that have been undertaken by the Borough specifically, the tree planting, street openings and automatic doors. She commented that issues are arising which may not have been adequately addressed at the outset. Ms. Macklin expressed concern that the professional staff is not being held accountable.

Chief Coleman distributed the Montier Street and Park Avenue accident information. Ms. Macklin commented that she had received an invitation to the US District Attorney's office event in her folder. Ms. McCarthy-Johnson commented that she learned of the event informally. She stated that two member of Council attended. Ms. Trice requested a copy of the meeting minutes.

Chief Coleman commented on the meeting with the US District Attorney's office. She stated that the strategies, resources, and initiatives that were recommended for Wilkinsburg are already in place and that Wilkinsburg will serve as a model for the entire western Pennsylvania region. There will be another meeting on February 20, 2013 in McKees Rocks. The location has not been announced. There will be two other meetings, one in the Mon Valley and the other in the Hill District. Ms. McCarthy-Johnson commented on a survey which was conducted relating to the public's perception of crime in the community. Chief Coleman conducted the same survey approximately 7 years ago. There was a low response rate for the US District Attorney's survey. The data from the local and federal surveys will be compared to determine if there are any changes.

Chief Coleman announced that the Public Safety Forum will be held on Thursday, February 7, 2013 at the Eastridge Library. The Public Safety Forum for Gable Ridge in the Beacon Hill area has been rescheduled.

Chief Coleman informed Council of plans to recruit new officers for hire. Chief Coleman would like to participate in the joint testing with the TCVCOG to create a larger pool of candidates.

Swift Reach Communication System, used by Forest Hills, is a communications system that Chief Coleman is planning to procure for Wilkinsburg to communicate with residents and Borough officials. Monies have been budgeted. The system is similar to the NIXEL System.

A seminar, "Safety in Public Schools", is being held at the Western PA School for the Deaf at 8:00 a.m. on February 7. Chief Coleman extended an invitation to Council. Furniture is being donated by the WPSD to the Wilkinsburg Police Department. It will be shared with the Adult Library and DPW.

The Citizens Police Academy will begin on March 19, 2013. The academy will meet every Tuesday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The meetings will be held in the Municipal Building.

Ms. Trice requested Chief Coleman provide minutes from the US District Attorney's meeting. A Power Point presentation is also available.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, on motion by Ms. Ervin, second by Ms. Trice, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 P.M.

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Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson, Vice-President